

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR RECORDING SYSTEM INFORMATION****ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for recording data concerning a system is provided. The apparatus comprises a memory card, such as a COMPACTFLASH card, and a processor unit, such as a T<sup>2</sup>CAS processor unit. The memory card includes a supplemental file that contains instructions as to what data is to be recorded and when the recording should start and stop. To conserve space the supplemental file is written as a sequence of hexadecimal characters whose position in the sequence and binary bit value indicates which data is to be recorded and when. A lookup table can be used to interpret the supplemental file. The processor unit includes or is coupled to a memory card reader/writer.